Part-time Chairman in Government Companies

4474. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) how many part-time chairmen are working in Central Government's companies;

(b) how many posts of Managing Directors, Directors in the field of project, planning, works, Technical and Finance are lying vacant in various PSUs during the last two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to these vacancies PSUs suffered losses; and

(d) what action has been taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (b) There are 74 posts of part-time Chairman in Central PSUs. Five posts of Chairman cum Managing Director/Managing Director, four posts of Director (Finance) and one post of Director (Technical) are lying vacant for more than two years. There are various reasons like old and obsolete plant & machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilisation, excess manpower, heavy interest burden, etc., for losses suffered by PSUs. It would, therefore, be difficult to attribute any single factor for losses. Filling up vacancies at Board level is a continuous process and necessary steps in this regard are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments.

Increase in Prices of Maruti Cars

4475. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of Maruti Cars and other small and medium cars have been increased following the budget.

(b) if so, to what extent, indicating the earlier and revised prices of each model;

(c) how far the increase is attributable to leview in the Central Budget; and

(d) how far the manufacturers have absorbed the increase in the cost of production on account of additional levies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) : the enquiries made with Maruti Udyog Limited, M/s. General Motors India Limited, M/s. Ford Motors India Limited and M/s. TELCO indicate that prices of their cars have not been increased following the Budget. The prices of cars are not regulated and are fixed by the manufacturers from time to time on commercial considerations.

PSUs in the Country

4476. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PSUs functioning in the country as on-date; and

(b) the total capital investment made therein by the end of March, 2000 along with the amount on which interest has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) As on 31.3.1999, till which period the information is available, there were 240 PSUs (including 5 under construction) functioning in the country. The total investment made in these PSUs on that date was Rs. 230140 crores out of which Rs. 149779 crores were long term loans on which interest is being paid.

Guidelines for Navratna PSUs

4477. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced guidelines for the Board of Navratna PSUs wishing to enter into a technology joint ventures/strategic alliance with other firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of PSUs which propose to have joint ventures with foreign/ domestic partners and sent their proposal to Government for clearance; and

(d) to what extent PSUs are likely to be benefited by such ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.